

**OPERATION ROUND UP®
HELPS ORGANIZATIONS**

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North Star Electric Cooperative employees handed out frisbees and candy at the annual Fourth of July parade.

**North Star is proud to celebrate
our country's independence!**

NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. MISSION STATEMENT

To improve the lives of our member-owners by providing reliable electric energy services while maintaining the very highest standards of performance and member satisfaction.

OPERATION ROUND UP® CONTINUES

TO HELP LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS



The North Star Electric Community Trust board met in July to review the Operation Round Up® applications, which it received requesting funding for various programs. The board awarded \$14,140.38, so it was not an easy task selecting which groups would get funding and what amount they would receive. Many local programs and organizations benefit from Operation Round Up, a voluntary, member-driven fundraising program of North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc., that is designed to provide financial assistance for worthwhile projects and charities in the area. Donations are given to organizations to help make the area a more pleasant and safe place to live. All funds for Operation Round Up are contributed by the member-owners of North Star, and the money is placed into a trust fund that is separate from electric accounts. The trust is administered by its own board of directors comprised of people from across the area.



Operation Round Up directors are appointed by North Star's board members and must be members of the cooperative. The cooperative's general manager is a nonvoting member of the board.

Organizations from the area may apply for a donation from the Operation Round Up Trust. The applicant must be charitable in nature and be working to meet a need in our area. The Operation Round Up board meets twice a year and decides if an application meets the guidelines of the trust and if funds are available.

If a member chooses to be part of Operation Round Up, their bill is "rounded up" to the next highest dollar. For example, if a bill is \$96.47, the computer will round up the bill to \$97. The additional 53 cents will be placed in the trust and distributed to local charitable and community-based programs.

At the July meeting, \$14,140.38 in Operation Round Up funds was distributed to various qualifying programs and organizations in the area, including:

Servants of Shelter of Koochiching.....	\$540
Voyageurs Area Council	\$754
Littlefork Fire Department.....	\$1,755.42
Lake of the Woods Food Shelf	\$1,000
LSS Meals on Wheels	\$1,000
Big Falls Fire and EMS	\$2,500
Northern Options for Women	\$1,000
LOW Historical Society	\$285.96
Williams Senior Citizens Day Center	\$700
Big Falls Community Food Shelf	\$1,000
LOW Splash Pad Committee	\$1,500
Littlefork American Legion	\$580
Falls Education Foundation	\$500
Littlefork – Big Falls 2nd Grade.....	\$625
United Way of NE Minnesota	\$400

2024 Fair Prize Winners

Baudette Daily Prize Drawing

Erin Estling Narlene Plank Don Holte Kelly Matelski

These winners received a \$50 energy bill credit from North Star Electric

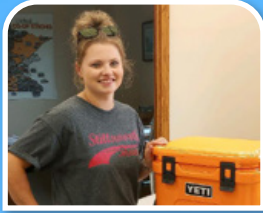


Merri Wiese was the **GRAND PRIZE WINNER** of a YETI cooler at the Baudette fair. Congratulations!

Littlefork Daily Prize Drawing

Douglas Henrickson Lila Lehman Marilyn Kelly Twila Hege

These winners received a \$50 energy bill credit from North Star Electric



Hattie Pritchard was the **GRAND PRIZE WINNER** of a YETI cooler at the Littlefork fair. Congratulations!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the June 5, 2024, regular board meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to approve the safety committee meeting minutes, to approve an agreement to modify the current RUS note to allow a one-year extension, and to approve moving the August board meeting to July 31, 2024.

Staff reports included the safety report, the monthly financial report, the Minnkota Wholesale Power Rate Schedule, the new Minnesota Retail Delivery Fee, new services, service upgrades and retirements, summer construction projects underway in Birchdale and the Rainy Lake area, planned outages, the Landis + Gyr exchange conference attended by Daniel Fish, winter load control, ripple receiver inspections and repairs, distributed generation, member appreciation days, the local North Star fair booths, rebates, the cost of service study, Canadian work permits, scholarship testing, the cost of service study, the recent all-

employee meeting, and the Littlefork office roofing and bathroom repair projects.

A visiting guest to the meeting was Bidal Duran, candidate for MN House 2A Representative. He introduced himself and discussed issues important to both him and the cooperative.

Detailed minutes are available at the cooperative for member review. Regular board meetings are generally held the first Wednesday of every month (708-17-010-03, Gary Olson). If you wish to speak with the board or have an item that you would like to have placed on the agenda, please

contact the co-op at least two weeks in advance to be included on the agenda.

FOR JUST THE CHANGE IN YOUR POCKET, YOU CAN RUN YOUR AIR FRYER FOR 45 MINUTES USING ONE KILOWATT-HOUR.



PAYING PENNIES FOR YOUR KILOWATTS – THAT'S THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY.



VALUE OF ELECTRICITY

ANNUAL MEETING SAVE THE DATE



Mark your calendars for North Star Electric's annual meeting to be held on **FRIDAY, OCT. 4, 2024**, indoors at Lake of the Woods School. As an electric co-op member, you have the power to help shape our energy future.

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

02
SEPT

North Star's offices in Baudette and Littlefork will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2, in observance of Labor Day.

04
SEPT

North Star will hold its next monthly board meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 4. Please contact us ahead of time if you would like to be added to the agenda.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President
Steve Arnesen

Vice President
Michael Hanson

Secretary-Treasurer
Lorraine Nygaard

Directors
Shelley Spears
Randy Bergan
Tom Smith
Douglas King

General Manager
Kevin Holen

DIGGING SOON?

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from injury and expense. Safe digging is no accident.

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG: 811 or 800-252-1166.
VISIT WWW.CALL811.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Past issues of the Enlightener are on our website at

www.northstarelectric.coop

NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE GUIDE TO E-BIKES



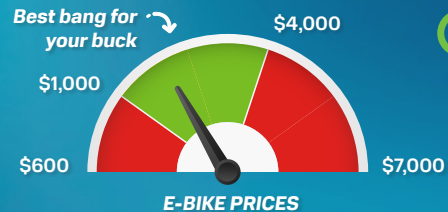
You know you've been curious about battery-powered bikes, more commonly known as e-bikes. And why wouldn't you be? You can go farther, faster – and with way fewer sore muscles the next day. As the technology improves, the costs are coming down, so this summer is the perfect time to find an e-bike of your own.

E-Bike Classifications

CLASS	CONTROL	TOP ASSISTED SPEED
Class 1	<i>Pedal-assist only</i> – electric motor is only activated when the rider pushes the pedals; no throttle control on the handlebar	20 mph
Class 2	<i>Pedal-assist</i> or <i>pedal-free propulsion</i> – electric motor can be activated by pedaling or with a throttle control	20 mph
Class 3	<i>Pedal-assist only</i> – these faster, more powerful bikes have their own set of rules and regulations; may not be legal to ride on bike paths in some towns	28 mph

Cost

You can spend **AS LITTLE AS \$600 TO MORE THAN \$4,000** on a new e-bike – most of the top-reviewed ones will be at least \$1,000. However, some specialty models of e-bikes can go for as high as \$6,000 or \$7,000!



Charging

You will want to check out your manufacturer's charging instructions when you get your e-bike, but the following are the general steps of the charging process:

- All e-bikes have a battery pack that can be charged on the bike; in some models, the battery can be removed and charged wherever you have an outlet.
- A battery charger should be included with your

e-bike; make sure you use the included charger to ensure charging compatibility, efficiency and safety.

- You will get your best long-term results if you charge the battery indoors.
- For most models, you should first plug the charging unit into the wall and then attach the bike battery; some may have a cap that you will need to remove.

How long will it take to charge my battery?

The amount of time it takes to charge will depend on several factors, including the battery's capacity and your charger type. On average, it takes around **2 HOURS** to get to a majority charge (0% to 80%) and about **4-5 HOURS** for a complete charge (0% to 100%). Do remember that charging times will vary.

What is the range for a single battery charge?

Again, this will depend on several factors, but usually an e-bike battery will last **30-50 MILES**. It comes down to your battery's capacity, how much pedal-assist you use, how wild your terrain is, the watts the motor is using, and the weight of everything the bike is carrying.

KEEP YOUR COOL WHILE THE POWER IS OUT

TIPS FOR WEATHERING SUMMER POWER OUTAGES

Source: [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.safeelectricity.org)



Severe summer storms can cause outages. When a power outage occurs during hot weather, take steps to maintain safety and comfort until power is restored.

High winds that topple utility poles and power lines cause many summer outages. It's important to always stay clear of downed power lines, even during cleanup efforts. Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard.

Assume that any dangling wires you encounter are electrical and treat all downed or hanging lines as if they are energized and dangerous. If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel. Also, when driving, be careful at intersections where traffic lights may be out.

If power to your home is out for a prolonged period, know and understand important safety precautions and steps to cope with heat until power is restored:

- Remember to call North Star Electric immediately to report the outage at 888-668-8243.
- Dress in loose, lightweight clothing and stay on the coolest, lowest level of your home.
- Use natural ventilation to cool homes and consider purchasing battery-powered fans.
- Drink plenty of water and avoid heavy meals, caffeinated drinks and alcohol.

- Keep refrigerator or freezer doors closed. A freezer that is half full or full can keep foods frozen 24 to 48 hours. Foods can stay safe in an unopened refrigerator up to four hours. If an outage lasts longer than four hours, remove and pack meat, milk, and other dairy products in a cooler with ice.
- Use safe alternative food preparations. A barbecue grill is an excellent way to prepare food. Always grill outside.
- Check on friends and relatives – especially children, seniors, and those with medical conditions or disabilities. These people may need to seek emergency cooling shelters.
- Close all drapes and blinds on the sunny side of your residence.

During an outage, North Star Electric recommends turning off electrical appliances and unplugging major equipment, including air conditioning units, computers and televisions. Power sometimes comes back in surges, which can damage electronics. Your circuits could overload when power returns if all your electronics are still on and plugged in. Leave one light on to indicate that power has been restored. Wait a few minutes then turn on other appliances and equipment one at a time.

If you use a standby generator, make sure a transfer safety switch is used or connect the appliance(s) directly to the generator output through an isolated circuit before you operate it. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines – what's known as "back feed." Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.

PROBLEMS PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

ENERGY ASSISTANCE MAY BE AVAILABLE!

If you recently lost your job or had your hours cut, the following agencies may be able to help you with your electric bill. You may have never needed help before, but maybe today you do.

LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES

206 8th Ave SE, Suite 200
Baudette, MN 56623-2895
218-634-2642

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL

PO Box 67
Badger, MN 56714-0067
800-568-5329

KOOCHICHING COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

1000 5th St
International Falls, MN 56649-2243
218-283-7000

KOOTASCA COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

Grand Rapids, MN 55744-3984
Toll free 877-687-1163
Direct 218-999-0800
Fax 218-999-0220

ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

703 3rd Ave S
Virginia, MN 55792
800-662-5711



STAFF REPORT – CABLE REPLACEMENT/RELOCATION



Tim Pelach
Operations Manager

Greetings, everyone. I hope your summer is going well. It seems like the weather has straightened out a little bit as far as the rain. Just a few months ago everyone was talking about how dry it was and how low the lakes are. Now we want the water to stop coming up – things change fast.

I would like to thank all the members in the International Falls and surrounding areas for your cooperation and patience during some recent major projects. Many of you were impacted with planned outages in the course of completing our work with the flood repairs, the new highway work going on, and the Midco expansion in the area. It is a big inconvenience and we do not like to do it any more than you do.

Our vegetation management program will involve spraying this year and we hope to cover a large area in the International Falls, Big Falls and Kabetogama areas. Wright Tree Service is handling that so you will see them around the area (131-17-005-07, Eric Benjamin). Spraying is the most efficient way to stretch the members' dollars per mile to keep the rights of way clean if the foliage isn't too big.

Some of you may have noticed the area between Indus and Loman where Highway 11 is sluffing down the bank. One of our next projects to complete is an underground cable relocation in that area that will consist of about 3,700 feet of cable to get out of the way so MN DOT can move the road further west. Construction is scheduled to begin Sept. 1.

On the west end of the system, crews have begun our upgrade conversion in the Morris Point area to help us balance the loads better in the area and replace aging infrastructure during the process. They are also wrapping up our Birchdale cable replacement as things dry out to allow us access to areas.

That's all for now, Tim

CONNECT YOUR PORTABLE GENERATOR WITH GENERLINK

GenerLink provides members a safe and easy way to connect their portable generator during outages.

- No rewiring needed
- Ready to use when you need it
- Flexibility and control to select what you want to run using your home's circuit panel
- North Star's electric technicians will install the device at your electric meter

Contact North Star Electric Cooperative for more information and current pricing at **218-634-2202**.



North Star is now selling portable generators. Contact us for more details.

Minnkota Power Cooperative transmission line inspections scheduled for fall

Minnkota Power Cooperative, North Star's wholesale power provider, will be inspecting transmission line structures that cross your property twice during the fall of 2024.

1. Vegetation management inspections will be in preparation for vegetation maintenance activities in 2025. This inspection will allow Minnkota to evaluate vegetation growth around electrical infrastructure and within the right of way. Davey Resource Group will be assisting Minnkota personnel in the patrols.
2. Pole inspections/testing are completed to properly evaluate our transmission system to plan for upcoming project work. EXO will be conducting the testing on the poles.

All inspections are done using ATV/UTVs. Minimum land disturbance is anticipated. The purpose of these inspections is to ensure that electricity can be delivered safely and reliably to your area, as well as prioritize project work. If you have questions, please visit Minnkota.com or call **701-795-4000**.



CURRENT ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

State law requires that every new electrical installation in any construction, remodeling, replacement or repair shall file a certificate for inspection and be inspected by a Minnesota electrical inspector. For more information, go to the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industries website (dli.mn.gov) and go to the electrical page.

ST. LOUIS and KOOCHICHING COUNTIES

Keith Tillotson
218.245.9087

Call to set up an appointment
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m., Monday - Friday

LAKE OF THE WOODS and ROSEAU COUNTIES

Ronald Ditsch
651.368.2195

Call to set up an appointment
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m., Monday - Friday

ITEM FOR SALE ON BIDS

Items will be sold as-is and may be seen at North Star Electric Cooperative headquarters in Baudette, Minn. Please mark outside of envelope with the bid item and mail sealed bid to North Star Electric, Attn: Clayton Gubbels, PO Box 719, Baudette, MN 56623. Bids will be accepted until 4 p.m. Aug. 30, 2024. North Star reserves the right to refuse any or all bids, and the highest bid will win first choice of the item.



**2014 Chevrolet
1/2 ton pickup**
- 4x4
- 5.3 liter
- 158,000 miles



**Amerequip
backhoe**
- For skidsteer
- Model 1100R
- low flow

HOME COOKING

Greek Orzo Chicken Salad

This healthy salad with chicken is so easy to whip up for hot summer days, and it's absolutely amazing when tossed in a light, refreshing lemon dressing.

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time	Servings
15 mins	10 mins	25 mins	6

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups uncooked orzo pasta
- 2 cups chunked cooked chicken
- 10 cherry tomatoes, halved
- ½ cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1 can (2¼ ounces) sliced ripe olives, drained
- ¼ cup chopped sweet onion
- ¼ cup olive oil

- 2 Tbsp fresh lemon juice
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp dried oregano

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cook pasta according to directions. Drain pasta, rinse with cold water and drain well.
2. In a large bowl, combine pasta, chicken, tomatoes, cheese, olives and onion.



3. In a small bowl, whisk remaining ingredients until blended.
4. Drizzle dressing over salad, toss to coat (keeps well in the fridge).

*From the kitchen of
Debbie Thorpe.*

Receive a \$20 energy credit if you submit a recipe and it is selected to run in a future issue of the Enlightener newsletter.

DIRECTOR MICHAEL HANSON EARNS NRECA DIRECTOR GOLD CREDENTIAL (DGC)

*North Star Electric Cooperative board director achieves
credential in today's electric utility competencies*



Michael Hanson from North Star Electric Cooperative (*pictured left*) recently received the Director Gold Credential (DGC) certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

The current ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, which is requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new

governance skills and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model (241-15-011-04, Nick Painovich). Electric co-ops in Minnesota have a commitment to work through NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative consumer-owners.

The Director Gold Credential recognizes directors who have already earned their Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) and who wish to continue to learn throughout their service on the board.

"The Director Gold certificate is geared toward directors who are committed to continuing their education beyond CCD and BLC and who desire a tangible credential that reinforces their stature as part of an experienced and educated group of directors," said Steve Arnesen (*pictured right*). "Director Gold also demonstrates to co-op members those directors' ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability," he said.

For a director to earn the Director Gold certificate, they must have already earned the CCD and BLC and earn three additional credits from the BLC series of courses. Unlike the CCD and BLC certificates, Director Gold includes a continuing education requirement which calls for directors to earn three credits of approved course work and/or conferences every two years to maintain their Director Gold status. Congratulations, Michael, and thank you for your commitment to your cooperative.

OFFICE HOURS | 7:30 A.M. - 4 P.M. | MONDAY - FRIDAY

Baudette 218-634-2202 or 888-634-2202 | **Littlefork** 218-278-6658 or 888-258-2008

For credit card payment 855-874-5354 | **Online billing** info available via SmartHub app

Electrical after-hours emergencies 1-888-6OUTAGE (1-888-668-8243)

Email us at nsec@wiktel.com | **Visit our website at** northstarelectric.coop

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**'LIKE' US ON FACEBOOK
TO STAY UP TO DATE**

Like your cooperative for outage updates during the summer season and other useful information.

 /northstarelectric

*This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*